

25X1A

COUNTRY Indonesia 25X1A

SUBJECT Mobility of Forces of the Democratic Republic
of Vietnam

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1. Except for the High Command and several officers training schools, troops of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) have no fixed encampments. Regular army troops are billeted in villages, sharing dwellings with the inhabitants.
2. DRV forces are mobile for reasons of security and supply. They must be garrisoned in villages which have a sufficient number of dwellings to house them and which are close to sources of supply. When a battalion has stayed two weeks in one village, it will move out to preclude its whereabouts being determined by the enemy. It will be replaced by another battalion, often of the same regiment, so that although the troops move constantly, there is simply a rotation of units among a limited number of villages.
3. When a unit moves towards a front, it nearly always moves at night or in the early morning. Guns and ammunition are wrapped in mats and sent forward several hours in advance, while the rice supply is transported ahead on the backs of coolies. The coolies move in long single lines and are therefore easily spotted.
4. Inasmuch as taxes have been collected in kind since May 1950, and stockpiles of rice have been set up in a number of places, the problem of supply is no longer so great. However, units are still obliged to obtain vegetables from the nearest markets.
5. Almost all DRV troops suffer from malaria and find it almost impossible to obtain medicines.

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